



J. TYLER McCAULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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December 29, 2005

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – POSITIVE PATH  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER, POSITIVE PATH GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Positive Path Youth Development Center, Positive Path Group Home. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Positive Path Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 11 - 17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Positive Path Group Home was providing services for six Los Angeles County Probation children.

Positive Path Group Home is located in the Second District.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency is providing the treatment services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include specific and measurable long and short term goals.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:jdH

[http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group\\_home.asp](http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp)

### **Attachments**

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS  
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer  
Violeta Houston, Executive Director, Positive Path Youth Development Center  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Positive Path Youth Development Center  
Positive Path Group Home  
801 East Radbard Street  
Carson, California 90746  
Phone: (310) 715-1173  
License Number: 191600319  
Rate Classification Level: 9**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Positive Path Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current; however, they are not comprehensive, and do not include specific and measurable long and short term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services as identified in their NSPs.

**Recommendation**

1. **Positive Path Group Home Management develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include specific and measurable long and short term goals.**

**III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children are allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. Psychotropic Medication****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents****Comments:**

According to the Agency's management, there are no residents receiving psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VI. Personal Rights****Method of assessment –Interviews with children****Sample size for interviews: Two****Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to have private visitors, to make and receive personal

telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are given opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum base allowance. Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**Positive Path Youth Development Center**

801 E. Radbard St.  
Carson Ca. 90746  
(310) 715-1173 Fax (310) 4851-4997

August 31, 2005

County of Los Angeles  
Department of Auditor-Controller  
Children's Group Home Ombudsman  
500 West Temple Street, Room 515-A  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Attention: Jacquelyn Hayes

In response to your letter, dated July 18, 2005, regarding Program Services, the following recommendation has been implemented.

The LCSW is now reflecting the measurable goals. These items have specific and measurable goals which are attainable for the client concern.

To avoid any further deficiency, the Assistant Executive Director will monitor the LCSW reports. The Needs and Service Plans will be review within 24-hours after completion to avoid any delay in processing.

If further explanation is required, please contact this office at the above telephone numbers.

Respectfully Submitted,



Administrator  
John F. Portis